



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 128**

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 286

*Senate, March 19, 2015*

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT EXPANDING AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-607 of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (NEW) (d) On and after July 1, 2015, the Commissioner of  
4 Rehabilitation Services is authorized to establish and administer a  
5 grant program for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible  
6 persons to undertake home modifications and acquire assistive  
7 technology devices, as defined in section 42-330, necessary to allow  
8 such persons to age in place in a home setting of their choice. The  
9 commissioner shall assign staff to administer the program. For  
10 purposes of this section, "eligible persons" means persons sixty-five  
11 years of age or older or persons of any age with physical disabilities  
12 who (1) have an annual income that does not exceed four hundred per  
13 cent of the federal poverty level, and (2) provide to the Department of  
14 Rehabilitation Services a written statement signed by a health care  
15 provider licensed pursuant to chapter 370 that such person is in need

16 of a home modification or assistive technology device to live  
17 independently.

18 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The sum of five million dollars is  
19 appropriated to the Department of Rehabilitation Services, from the  
20 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, to establish and  
21 administer a grant program for home modifications and assistive  
22 technology devices pursuant to section 17b-607 of the general statutes,  
23 as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	17b-607
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In section 1(d), "grand fund" was changed to "grant program", for internal consistency, and "department" was changed to "Department of Rehabilitation Services", for clarity and, in section 2, "grant fund" was changed to "grant program", for consistency with other provisions of the bill.

**AGE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>
Rehabilitation Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	5,000,000

***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

The bill appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund in FY 16 to the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to establish a grant program for home modification and assistive technology to permit eligible individuals to age in place in a home setting of their choice.

The bill allows the appropriation to be used for administrative costs as well as for grants. In order to administer the grant program, DORS would require two durational positions with a total cost of \$255,295. The total cost is detailed as follows: salary costs of \$139,574 (Education Consultant: \$94,214 and Processing Technician: \$45,360) and fringe benefit costs of \$115,721 (82.91% of salary). The balance of the appropriation, \$4.7 million, is available to provide grants described above.

#### ***Background***

PA 14-98 Sec. 9(i) authorized \$6 million for DORS to use for grants-in-aid for home modifications and assistive technology devices related to aging in place.

#### ***The Out Years***

The fiscal impact identified above is for FY 16 and would not

continue into the future.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 286*****AN ACT EXPANDING AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the rehabilitation services (DORS) commissioner to establish and administer a grant program to help eligible people modify their homes and acquire assistive technology devices they need to allow them to live independently in a home setting (i.e., age in place).

To qualify for a grant, a person must:

1. be age 65 or older or have a physical disability,
2. have an annual income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (i.e., for FY 15 \$47,080 for an individual and \$63,720 for a family of two), and
3. provide to DORS a written statement signed by a licensed physician stating that he or she needs a home modification or assistive technology device to live independently.

The bill appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to DORS for FY 16 to establish and administer the grant program. It also requires the commissioner to assign staff to administer the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/05/2015)